

Compton Gifford District Council

AND

URBAN SANITARY AUTHORITY.

The Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31st, 1895.

THE Registration Returns show that there have been—

Births: Males, 39; Females, 32	...	...	...	...	Total	71
Deaths: „ 23; „ 20	...	...	...	...	Total	43
Natural Increase	...	...	...	...		28

The Mortality from all causes was 43, classified as follows—

					Under 5 years.	Over 5 years.
Small-pox	...	...	...	...	None	None
Scarlatina	...	...	...	...	do.	do.
Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	do.	do.
Membranous Croup	...	...	...	...	do.	do.
Fevers	{	Typhus	...	...	do.	do.
		Enteric or Typhoid	...	...	do.	do.
		Continued	...	...	do.	do.
		Relapsing	...	...	do.	do.
		Puerperal	...	...	do.	do.
Cholera	...	...	...	...	do.	do.
Erysipelas	...	...	...	...	do.	do.
Measles	...	...	...	...	do.	do.
Pertussis (Whooping Cough)	...	...	...	...	do.	do.
Diarrhoea and Dysentery	...	...	...	...	1	do.
Rheumatic Fever	...	...	...	...	None	do.
Ague	...	...	...	...	do.	do.
Phthisis...	...	...	...	...	1	3
Bronchitis	{					
Pneumonia		...	...	...	1	4
Pleurisy						
Heart Disease	...	...	...	...	None	5
Injuries	...	...	...	...	do.	None
Murder	...	...	...	...	do.	do.
Cancer	...	...	...	...	do.	3
Suicide	...	...	...	...	do.	2
Influenza	...	...	...	...	do.	3
Premature Birth	...	...	...	...	1	None
All other Diseases	...	...	...	...	None	19
					4	39

The Mortality at different ages is as follows—

Under 1 year	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
1 and under 5 years	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
5 " 15 "	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
15 " 25 "	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
25 " 65 "	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	16
65 and upwards	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	22
							Total	43

Estimating the population at 4252 to the middle of 1895, the death rate will be 10·112 per thousand, and the birth rate 19·049.

The infantile death rate under one year per thousand births is 28·168, only two deaths under the age of one year having occurred, as against 10 in 1894, 6 in 1893, and 3 in 1892.

The infantile death rate has therefore fluctuated to an extraordinary degree, as will be seen by the following table.

Year.	Rate.	Year.	Rate.
1890	64.25	1893	136.36
1891	127.66	1894	167.79
1892	54.18	1895	28.168

The average for the six years would be 96.401.

Last year I remarked that the mortality was greatest, as might be expected, at the two extremes of life; this year it appears that rather more than half the mortality has occurred at or above 65 years of age—*i.e.*—where one would naturally expect it to occur.

I may remark that the average death rate for the whole of England under one year per 1000 births is 161 for the year 1895.

This, I think, speaks well for the health of the locality, and should be an inducement for those who wish to have a healthy progeny to come to this neighbourhood.

I have also the satisfaction of remarking that there have been *no* deaths from Zymotic disease during the year, against five deaths last year.

There have been notified to me the following cases.—

Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Membranous Croup	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Typhoid Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Erysipelas	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
								Total
								16

This is less than in 1894, when 21 cases were notified, and that included 3 for diarrhœa. This year this complaint was not made notifiable during the autumn months.

Difficulty has arisen in some cases owing to the want of an Isolation Hospital. It seems, however, only reasonable that such an Hospital should be provided by the Plympton Union, so as to be available by all its constituent parts, as it would be somewhat unfair to expect a district with so little Zymotic disease to provide an Isolation Hospital for itself.

Many of the houses have been inspected, and, where necessary, drains tested and defects made good.

The district has suffered from the neglect of its neighbours. Some recently built houses outside Compton Gifford, in the tything of Weston Peverill, are drained by the use of a cess pit. This has been allowed to overflow down the valley leading to the Cemetery, much to the annoyance and injury of persons residing in the houses which abut thereon. Complaint having been made to the Plympton Sanitary Authority, the stream was cleaned out, and the nuisance abated.

It would be extremely beneficial, if, at any rate, in small and out-lying communities, some modification of the earth system could be carried out, both from the economic and health points of view. A modification of the system has been carried out with success at Congleton, in Cheshire, a place containing a population of 12000. Peat, containing a certain proportion of sulphuric acid, is served out to the people, and is mixed with the excreta. The sulphuric acid fixes the ammonia, which is the valuable part of the excreta; this is removed, and is sold to farmers at £6 per ton. The last report I saw spoke highly of it as a fertilizing material.

Considerable annoyance was caused to persons living in a row of houses called Redlands by an accumulation of town refuse, situated about 51 yards from the back of the nearest dwelling house. The offender was summoned, and compelled to remove it.

It might also be remarked that the drainage of the houses referred to is not very satisfactory, as it is allowed to flow over a field at the back of the houses; pending the construction of a sewer, some means should be taken to intercept the sewage, if not dealt with in the manner before referred to.

The field referred to is grazing land, so that it is easy to understand how cattle might become affected, and, in their turn, affect those consuming the milk obtained from them.

GEO. JACKSON,

F.R.C.S. ENG., EXAM.,

*Medical Officer of Health.*

1895.

COMPTON GIFFORD

**DISTRICT COUNCIL**

AND

Urban Sanitary Authority.

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*MEDICAL OFFICER'S*  
ANNUAL REPORT.

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